REMARKS

Claims 15-25 remain in this application. Claims 1-14 have been canceled.

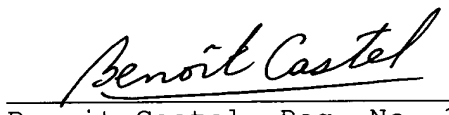
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure

☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure of the drawings

☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification

☐ - a terminal disclaimer

☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration

☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification

☐ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A ceramic element includes at least one substantially homogeneous ceramic layer which is provided with a plurality of superimposed partial ceramic layers. The ceramic element can be produced by stacking partial homogeneous ceramic layers on top of each other in the form of ceramic green films, removing the binding agent, and sintering. The ceramic element can be compacted at a lower sintering temperature than conventional block sinters. Moreover, the ceramic layer of the ceramic element is provided with a low number of pores, enclosures, foreign phases, and other flaws and is highly homogeneous. The ceramic element particularly represents a piezoelectric bending transducer or a piezoelectric transformer. Advantageously, the bending transducer or transformer has electrodes so as to be electrically triggered, the electrodes being buried underneath another ceramic layer. The additional ceramic layer and/or the electrode layer are used as a diffusion barrier.